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REMARKS

Applicants respectfully point out that claims 3, 9, 14 and 19 have been indicated to be allowable in the Office Actions mailed September 24, 2002, and April 15, 2003. Claims 46 to 53 depend from the allowable claims, are parallel to claims originally depending from claims 1, 7, 12 and 17, and were proposed in Applicants' previous response filed January 24, 2003, which was not entered. Support for claims 46 to 53 is reiterated below for convenience.

Claims 1, 3 to 7, 9 to 12, 14 to 17, 19, 20, and 34 to 45 are pending in the present application. Claims 34, 37, 40 and 43 were cancelled in Applicants' response filed January 24, 2003, although this amendment was not entered. In the present response, Applicants reiterate the cancellation of claims 34, 37, 40 and 43, and currently cancel claims 1, 4 to 7, 10 to 12, 15 to 17, 20, 35, 36, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44, and 45. Thus, upon entry of the present amendment, claims 3, 9, 14, 19, and 46 to 53 will be pending.

Support for claims 46 to 53

Claims 46 to 48 depend from claim 3, which has been indicated to be allowable; claims 46 to 48 are parallel to originally filed claims 4, 5, and 6, and are supported, for example, by claims 1 and 3 to 6 as originally filed. Claims 49 and 50 depend from claim 9, which has been indicated to be allowable; claims 49 and 50 are parallel to originally filed

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claims 10 and 11, and are supported, for example, by claims 7 and 9 to 11 as originally filed. Claims 51 and 52 depend from claim 14, which has been indicated to be allowable; claims 51 and 52 are parallel to originally filed claims 15 and 16, and are supported, for example, by claims 12 and 14 to 16 as originally filed. Claim 53 depends from claim 19, which has been indicated to be allowable; claim 53 is parallel to originally filed claim 20, and is supported, for example, by claims 17, 19 and 20 as originally filed.

As set forth above, the amendments are supported by the specification and do not add new matter. The claim amendments do not raise new issues for consideration or require a further search. Further, the amendments place the claims in better condition for allowance or for appeal. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the amendments.

Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph,
enablement

The objection to the specification and corresponding rejection of claims 1, 4 to 7, 10 to 12, 15 to 17, 20 and 34 to 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly lacking enablement in the specification, are respectfully traversed. Applicants maintain that the specification provides enablement for claims 1, 4 to 7, 10 to 12, 15 to 17, 20 and 34 to 45 for reasons of record. Nevertheless, to expedite issuance of allowable subject matter, these claims have been

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cancelled herein without prejudice to Applicants' pursuing these claims in a related application.

Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The rejection of claims 1, 4 to 7, 10 to 12, 15 to 17, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite is respectfully traversed. Applicants maintain that recitation of the phrase "a minor modification of SEQ ID NO:2" in these claims is clear and definite in view of teachings in the specification, as previously described on the record. Nevertheless, to expedite issuance of allowable subject matter, claims 1, 4 to 7, 10 to 12, 15 to 17, and 20 have been cancelled herein without prejudice to Applicants' pursuing these claims in a related application.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and the remarks submitted herein, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request a notice to that effect. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned agent if there are any questions relating to this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

Pamela M. Guy
Pamela M. Guy
Registration No. 51,228
Telephone No. (858) 535-9001
Facsimile No. (858) 535-8949

MCDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY
4370 La Jolla Village Drive
7th Floor
San Diego, California 92122